"inplace" hydrocarbon of 15.53 million tonnes (MMT) resources of oil plus oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) have been established in this find. Based on the seismic data, two locations have been released for drilling of development wells.

2. Banamali: This prospect is located in the Northeast of Lakwa field and North of Safrai field in Sivasagar District. A significant find in this structure has opened up the sector to the Northeast of Lakwa field for exploration. The 'inplace' hydrocarbons resources established in this field, as on 1.4.2003 is 0.28 MMT (O+OEG).

With a view to consolidate this find, four more exploratory locations have been identified for drilling.

Production of CNG

1498. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PERTROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles running on CNG throughout the country;

(b) the details of production of CNG from Oil wells in the country;

(c) whether the amount of CNG generated would be enough to suffice the usage for the next 10 years keeping in view the growth of number of CNG vehicles on Indian roads;

(d) whether Government feels fit to search and research for another alternate fuel now rather than wait till its too late; and

(e) if so, the details of any research being undertaken at this time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There are more than 1,85,000 CNG vehicles throughout the country.

(b) CNG is Natural Gas compressed to about 200 bars for use as auto fuel. Production of natural gas as on 1.4.2003 was about 85 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD).

(c) No formal assessment has been made in this regard.

(d) and (e) Research for alternative fuels is a continuous process. LPG can also be used as an alternative to CNG as automotive fuel. Research is also underway for using Hydrogen as auto-fuel.

Fire in ONGC pipeline

1499. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an undersea pipeline of ONGC carrying crude oil from Mumbai High North oil field Uran (Mumbai) developed a leak in August, 2003 causing oil spill;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the leak was detected and what is the estimated loss; and

(d) what impact it had on the environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Leakage of crude oil was observed from 30 inch oil trunk pipeline from Mumbai High to Uran at 1740 hrs on 10th August, 2003. The leakage was suspected to be from a small rupture in this cement coated trunk pipeline.

As per the findings of a high level Committee of ONGC, internal corrosion of the pipeline has been found to be the principal cause of the leakage.

The quantity of crude oil spilled was approximately 200 Metric Tons (MT).The estimated effect on crude oil production due to non-availability of the trunk pipeline and subsequent restriction in production rate till the line was repaired, is around 0.171 Million Metric Ton (MMT).

The oil spill was contained immediately within a few hours. The application of chemical dispersant broke down oil slick into patches making their effect a localized one. There was insignificant damage to the environment, prima facie.